

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A process for stabilizing or preserving a biomolecule, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a biomolecule immobilized on a surface; and
- (b) covering the surface with a composition comprising:
 - i. at least one non-reducing disaccharide; and
 - ii. at least one protein of polypeptide of the LEA class.

17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the non-reducing disaccharide is selected from the group consisting of trehalose (D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucopyranoside), sucrose (β -D-fructofuranosyl- α -D-glucopyranoside), and derivatives thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the non-reducing disaccharide is trehalose.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class has a motif comprising eleven amino acids, which is characterized by the following general formula (SEQ ID NO 1):

(1)-(2)-(3)-(4)-(5)-(6)-(7)-(8)-(9)-(10)-E,

wherein

- (1) signifies K or T,
- (2) signifies A, G, K, M or T,
- (3) signifies R, D, A, E, Q or K,
- (4) signifies E, K or S,
- (5) signifies T, F, Y or A,
- (6) signifies K, R, T or A,
- (7) signifies D, E or Q,
- (8) signifies S, R, Y or K,
- (9) signifies A or T, and
- (10) signifies G, A or R.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein said at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class is of LEA-subclass 3 and further has an amino acid sequence coded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of those deposited in GenBank under the accession number AF423069 and S39475.

21. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein said at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class has a motif comprising 11 amino acids, wherein the motif is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) K-T-A-E-F-R-D-S-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO. 2),
- (b) K-G-Q-E-F-K-E-R-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO. 3),

- (c) K-A-E-E-T-K-Q-R-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO. 4),
- (d) K-M-D-E-T-K-Q-R-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO.5),
- (e) K-A-R-K-T-K-D-S-A-A-E (SEQ ID NO. 6),
- (f) K-A-K-E-Y-K-D-Y-T-A-E (SEQ ID NO. 7),
- (g) K-A-R-E-T-T-E-K-A-R-E (SEQ ID NO. 8), and
- (h) T-K-D-S-A-A-E-K-A-R-E (SEQ ID NO. 9).

22. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein said non-reducing disaccharide is present at from 0.01 to 15 weight percent in relation to a ready-to-use solution and said protein or polypeptide of the LEA class is present at from 0.00001 to 1 weight percent in relation to the ready-to-use solution.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of a surface with an immobilized and stabilized or preserved biomolecule, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a surface with a biomolecule immobilized thereon; and
- (b) covering the biomolecule with a composition comprising:
 - i. at least one non-reducing disaccharide; and
 - ii. at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class.

25-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A surface of a material selected from the group consisting of glass, quartz glass, quartz, silicon, polymers, nitrocellulose, nylon and micro fiber membranes, and paper, wherein the surface includes a biomolecule immobilized thereon, covered with a stabilizing or preserving composition comprising:

at least one non-reducing disaccharide; and

at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class.

28. (Previously Presented) A surface according to claim 27, wherein said non-reducing disaccharide is present at from 0.01 to 15 weight percent in relation to a ready-to-use solution and said protein or polypeptide of the LEA class is present at from 0.00001 to 1 weight percent in relation to the ready-to-use solution.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A surface according to claim 27, wherein the non-reducing disaccharide is selected from the group consisting of trehalose (D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucopyranoside), sucrose (β -D-fructofuranosyl- α -D-glucopyranoside), as well as derivatives thereof.

31. (Previously Presented) A surface according to claim 27, wherein the non-reducing disaccharide is trehalose.

32. (Previously Presented) A surface according to claim 27, wherein the at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class has a motif comprising eleven amino acids, which is characterized by the following general formula (SEQ ID NO 1):

(1)-(2)-(3)-(4)-(5)-(6)-(7)-(8)-(9)-(10)-E,

wherein

- (1) signifies K or T,
- (2) signifies A, G, K, M or T,
- (3) signifies R, D, A, E, Q or K,
- (4) signifies E, K or S,
- (5) signifies T, F, Y or A,
- (6) signifies K, R, T or A,
- (7) signifies D, E or Q,
- (8) signifies S, R, Y or K,
- (9) signifies A or T, and
- (10) signifies G, A or R.

33. (Previously Presented) A surface according to claim 27, wherein said at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class is of LEA-subclass 3 and further has an amino acid sequence coded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of those deposited in GenBank under the accession number AF423069 and S39475.

34. (Previously Presented) A surface according to claim 27, wherein said at least one protein or polypeptide of the LEA class is of LEA subclass 3 and further has a

motif comprising 11 amino acids, wherein the motif is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) K-T-A-E-F-R-D-S-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO. 2),
- (b) K-G-Q-E-F-K-E-R-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO. 3),
- (c) K-A-E-E-T-K-Q-R-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO. 4),
- (d) K-M-D-E-T-K-Q-R-A-G-E (SEQ ID NO.5),
- (e) K-A-R-K-T-K-D-S-A-A-E (SEQ ID NO. 6),
- (f) K-A-K-E-Y-K-D-Y-T-A-E (SEQ ID NO. 7),
- (g) K-A-R-E-T-T-E-K-A-R-E (SEQ ID NO. 8), and
- (h) T-K-D-S-A-A-E-K-A-R-E (SEQ ID NO. 9).

35. (Previously Presented) An analytical and/or diagnostic device, comprising a surface as defined in claim 27.

36. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 35 selected from the group consisting of biochips, sensor chips, microtiter plates, test tubes and culture dishes.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A method of analysis and/or diagnosis, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a surface according to claim 27; and
- (b) incubating the surface with a sample to obtain an analytical and/or diagnostic result.